



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
Code Development and Analysis Division**

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 445-8200  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



## **HOW TO REQUEST A CODE INTERPRETATION**

Request a code interpretation by following these requirements:

1. All requests must be submitted utilizing the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Code Interpretation Application. The OSFM will **NOT** accept requests submitted by phone, fax or E-mail.
2. Interpretation request from governmental agencies (including fire departments) must be from the fire chief, fire marshal, building official or other administration manager.
3. Completed code interpretation request must be mailed to:

Code Interpretation Committee  
Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Code Development and Analysis Division  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Please allow 60 to 90 days for a draft interpretation to be posted.

After OSFM staff have reviewed your request and developed a response, a DRAFT interpretation will typically be posted on the OSFM web site for a ten-day comment period. Comments will be accepted by e-mail directly to [Greg.Andersen@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Greg.Andersen@fire.ca.gov) or by mail to the above noted address.

If you should have any questions regarding this process please feel free to contact the Code Interpretation Committee at (916) 445-8200 or [Greg.Andersen@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Greg.Andersen@fire.ca.gov).

There is a significant difference between a code interpretation question and a code application question. Code interpretations provide the context and background of specific code sections, whereas a code application question provides information regarding the application of the codes to a specific facility or project. Code application questions are directed to the appropriate Division. Specific questions regarding SFM regulated programs, for example fire extinguishers, fireworks, or building materials listings, will be directed to the specific program staff.